



August 25, 2005



## **Cranston man is sentenced to 188 months for crack cocaine, guns**

A federal judge today sentenced **Shawn Lewis**, of Cranston, to 188 months in federal prison for trafficking in crack cocaine and being a felon in possession of firearms. Cranston police arrested Lewis last September after seizing about 150 grams of crack cocaine and two handguns from his home at 55 Taft Street.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence.

In June, Lewis pleaded guilty to possessing with intent to distribute crack cocaine and to the firearms offense. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Lee H. Vilker said that the government had proof that, on September 30, 2004, Cranston police executed a search warrant at 55 Taft Street, where they seized about 153 grams of crack cocaine and two nine millimeter pistols from a bedroom. Officer also seized materials used in drig trafficking, including two digital scales and what were apparently ledgers of drug sales.

Police officers had earlier detained Lewis outside a nearby pizzeria where detectives suspected he sold crack cocaine. They found two packages of crack cocaine on him.

Lewis, 30, has at least five prior felony convictions, including convictions for assault, receiving stolen goods, carrying a pistol without a license, and escape from a correctional institution.

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**Cranston Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**

investigated the case. It was prosecuted federally as part of **Project Safe Neighborhoods**, a Department of Justice initiative against gun crimes. Under Project Safe Neighborhoods, the U.S. Attorney's Office, working with ATF, the Rhode Island Attorney General's Office, and other agencies, aggressively prosecutes federal firearms offenses in an effort to incarcerate those responsible for gun violence and deter others from committing gun crimes. Since 2001, federal firearms prosecutions in Rhode Island have more than doubled and gun offenders have been sentenced to a total of more than 600 years in federal prison.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter F. Neronha represented the government at the sentencing.

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